

Committee Notes – Joint Meeting

Security Committee- Hollywood Entertainment District, Sunset and Vine BID

July 11, 2013

Los Angeles Film School (6353 Sunset Blvd.)

Attendance: HED Committee Members Present: John Tronson, Chairperson; Dan Chismire, Carol Massie, and Derrick Malec. Not Present: Charlie Colletta and Chad Lewis. SVBID Committee Members Present: Fred Rosenthal, Chairperson; Fabio Conti, and Elizabeth McDonald. Not Present: Anthony Bell and Katie Seymour. Liaisons: Steve Seyler, Joe Salazar, Mike Harkins, and Bill Farrar, Andrews International; Captain Beatrice Girmala, LAPD; Andre Quintero, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office; Steve Whiddon, Council District 13. Not Present: LASD. Staff: Kerry Morrison, and Joe Mariani Jr., Hollywood Property Owners Alliance. Guests: Mike Arminio, LA Film School; Howard Ferguson, Rachel Love, Hollywood Frontier.

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairs Fred Rosenthal and John Tronson at 10:05 a.m.
- II. Public Comment: There were no comments from the public.
- III. Meeting Notes: The committee approved their meeting notes from the May 9, 2013 meeting.
- IV. Reports

A. Report from Andrews International

1. Monthly Activity Report: Steve Seyler gave his report covering activities through week 27 in the BID. The officers have made 134 fewer arrests compared to this time last year, while calls for service continue to rise, currently 588 above last year's number. Seyler also mentioned that visibility has also greatly increased for the year. Seyler said this could be attributed to both officers spending more time outside of their vehicles, and primarily the public safety officers whose foot patrols have helped increase citizen contacts by 3,400 compared to this time last year. Seyler said the officers are also continuing their regular outreach efforts and have been working with the Hollywood HHOT coalition to help them locate and aid the area's most at risk homeless neighbors.

B. Report from LAPD: Captain Girmala provided an extensive report to the committee:

- The Captain shared with the committee the recent LAPD statistics for the area: -13.9% decrease in violent crime, -17.6% decrease in property crime, -16.9% reduction in Part I crimes.
- The Captain thanked those individuals who were able to attend the department's recent Anti-Terrorism Symposium.
- In the recent weeks the Parole Impact Team (PIT) made 28 arrests, of which 12 were felony individuals on parole. The Captain said she is aware of the influx of individuals coming to the area. In the wake of Hollywood's recent tragic events the Captain has made the request of LAPD management to provide her with additional officers. This request was granted last week, and the division's deployment plan has changed. On July 14 the Hollywood division will be receiving an additional 20 officers to work within the Hollywood Entertainment District. There will also be two of those officers who will work a fixed post at the Hollywood and Highland intersection. In addition to these officers, the Captain said there will also be several other resources and operations that will be conducted throughout the Hollywood division. The Captain assured the committee that both she and the LAPD have the community's best interest at heart and are trying to do everything they can to keep both residents and visitors safe.

- As part of the ongoing effort, the Captain said she had met with Department of Mental Health (DMH) Lead Doctor, Tony Belize. The Captain is also meeting with other members from the homeless service provider community to help coordinate outreach efforts, especially to those potentially dangerous individuals who are in the district presently. Up to this point the Captain has been disappointed with the lack of outreach in the area, as she noted this is a key component to helping those homeless individuals in the area with nowhere to go, and the community as a whole. To help with this effort the LAPD created a resource pamphlet to hand out in the area. The “TAB” unit (Targeting Aggressive Beggars) has also begun going out every Monday with PATH street outreach to contact the new faces in the district. The Captain said that it appears a lot of agencies are moving homeless individuals into Hollywood. Who these specific agencies are were unknown at the time, but the Captain is looking into it further. There is also a meeting on July 31 with various service providers in the area to help solidify the outreach effort.
- The Captain said she had recently met with Mike Feurer. The two discussed everything from stay away orders for problematic repeat offenders to First Amendment issues related to street characters and tour busses. To talk more about the City Attorney’s office and their activities the Captain turned the discussion over to Andre Quintero.
- Mr. Quintero reported that following the recent tragic occurrences he has been working tirelessly with the LAPD, and even BID security, to try and secure stay away orders for problematic individuals who are committing crimes on a regular basis within Hollywood. The stay away orders are somewhat cumbersome to obtain but Quintero said he is very motivated and committed to the effort. Thus far Mr. Quintero was able to obtain a couple “stay aways” for individuals the LAPD and BID had arrested on numerous occasions. The order does not allow the suspect to enter the Hollywood Entertainment District “box area” for a period determined by a City Judge. Mr. Quintero said he hoped to be able to review 9-10 cases a week with the hopes that there might be 100 stay away orders by the end of the year. Mr. Quintero also said he will be reviewing several aggressive panhandling cases that had been previously rejected by the office. The Captain said that there will be a database of all individuals who have stay away orders and that BID patrol could contact the LAPD to see if any of the individuals they regularly come in contact with are listed.
- Lastly, Mr. Quintero thanked the Captain for her leadership and help in his recent effort to close the Hollywood/Wilcox recycling center behind ‘Pla-Boy Liquor.’ The Captain said that 90% of the homeless individuals in Hollywood are in the area because of the center. She asked that the committee reach out to their neighboring property owners to make them aware of the closure.

Kerry Morrison thanked the Captain and Mr. Quintero for their commitment and efforts, and also asked if there was some way that the area could get the word out that according to LAPD’s stats Hollywood is safe. The Captain said that there may be an opportunity in the future, perhaps at an LAPD press conference.

Captain Girmala also thanked Derrick Malec and SBE for their help in working with the Captain to develop a late night observe and report security component for the Entertainment District. The Captain reported that she is still trying to organize other owners in the area to get them to participate in what she called “a necessary tool to keep the area safe at night.”

C. Report from LA Sheriff’s Department: Not Present.

D. Report from Neighborhood Prosecutor: Refer to LAPD Report.

V. New Business

A. Meeting with Las Palmas/Hollywood Property Owners: Morrison said that she has set up a meeting with a few HPOA board members and the property owners in the Las Palmas area to talk about the ongoing nighttime issues. Derrick Malec said that he has noticed things have gotten somewhat better in the area, however he has observed gang members who are regularly visiting the area at night. Malec noted that

these individuals were not necessarily patronizing businesses or clubs, but more just hanging out, which was worrisome as he identified that these individuals are from rival gangs.

VI. Old Business

A. LAPD Camera System Report: Mariani reported that with the recent purchase of the Sunset Media Tower (Sunset/Argyle) the LAPD's repeater equipment on the rooftop was removed by the new owner as they were not aware what was on their roof. In having Metro Video go back through the tapes to see when the equipment was removed there appeared to be about a three week lag time between when the equipment was removed and when the LAPD reported that it was down. Mariani said that the boards will have to decide at their next respective meetings how they would like to proceed with the camera system and the maintenance program the BID has been paying for. Rosenthal asked if the program could be stopped now. Morrison said that it had already been paid for and that there are still other cameras running as the repeater seemed to affect only three sites. Tronson recommended that any future expenditures on the camera system be withheld until a renewed interest in the program is expressed by the LAPD.

B. Hollywood and Cahuenga Intersection Update: Mariani said that alley maintenance for the Sharkey's alley is continuing its suspension. The staff has met with the owners in the area and they have still yet to come to an agreement as to how to secure the alley. Until a resolution is reached the level of service required to clean the alley on a regular basis is beyond the normal scope of services provided by Clean Streets.

C. Homeless Outreach Update: Deferred until next month's meeting.

D. Meeting with Mitch O'Farrell and City Attorney Mike Feurer: Recently BID staff met with the newly elected Councilmember and were very encouraged by his enthusiasm and understanding of the ongoing issues in the area. Councilmember O'Farrell did also express that he has made it a priority to continue the Safe Sidewalk task force and try to come up with creative and legal ways to make the Boulevard a friendly place for locals and visitors alike. Morrison reported on her meeting with the new City Attorney Mike Feurer and the Chamber of Commerce. Morrison said that Mr. Feurer also seems very motivated and ready to go to work to try and solve many of the issues the committee discusses on a regular basis. Morrison directed the committee's attention to the "Seven Asks" in their meeting packets. Morrison said that the BID, along with the Hollywood Chamber, have made these requests known to both the Council office and City Attorney. Morrison said she believed that today's meeting was an encouraging start in the right direction to have these asks granted in a sustainable way. Morrison also shared with the committee a recent motion made by County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky to investigate why the recent stabbing suspect had been re-released from custody on several occasions prior to the tragic incident. Tronson asked if there was a way for the BID to engage legislators and local leaders in trying to fight for more prisons to be built, as the early release of felons will be a threatening item to not just Hollywood, but the state as a whole.

VII. Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 8, 2013 at 10 a.m. at the Los Angeles Film School (6353 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 90028).

VIII. Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Committee Chairs Fred Rosenthal and John Tronson at 11:39 a.m.